IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising:

a light-transmitting discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,

the discharge vessel (10) comprising discharge means for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13),

the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a source of mercury (7),

the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a releasing means (8) for the controlled release of mercury vapor from the source of mercury (7),

the releasing means (8) being operative in response to a condition of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp,

the condition being a characteristic of the discharge lamp and/or a pre-determined time interval.

2.(original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the releasing means (8) is operated via a switch device (9).

3.(original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the switch device (9) is mounted in the discharge vessel (10).

4.(original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the switch device (9) comprises a reed relay (19).

5.(original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the releasing means (8) is operated via an arc discharge.

6.(currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 5,~~ characterized in that the source of mercury (7) comprises at least one dispenser fiber (17a; 17a') comprising a mercury dispenser material.

7.(currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 5,~~ characterized in that the condition of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp is indicative of a content of mercury vapor in the discharge vessel (10) below a pre-determined level.

8.(currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 5,~~ characterized in that the lamp characteristics is the arc characteristic of the discharge in the discharge vessel (10), a decreased lumen output of the discharge lamp, an increased infrared contribution to the lamp spectrum of the discharge lamp, a change in the lamp voltage, changes in the dynamic behavior of the discharge lamp and/or the occurrence of striations in the discharge lamp.

9.(currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 5,~~ characterized in that the product of

the mercury pressure pHg and the internal diameter Din of the discharge vessel (10) is in the range $0.13 \leq pHg \times Din \leq 8$ Pa.cm.

10.(original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the product of the mercury pressure pHg and the internal diameter Din of the discharge vessel (10) is in the range $0.13 \leq pHg \times Din \leq 4$ Pa.cm.

11.(currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, or 5,~~ characterized in that the discharge vessel (10) contains less than 0.1 mg mercury.

12.(currently amended) A compact fluorescent lamp comprising a low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, or 5,~~ the compact fluorescent lamp comprising:

at least two dual-shaped lamp parts (35; 36; 37), each comprising a first tube (41; 45; 49) and a second tube (43; 47; 51),

the first tube (41; 45; 49) and the second tube (43; 47; 51) at a first end portion (41a, 43a; 45a, 47a; 49a, 51a) of each tube (41, 43; 45, 47; 49, 51) being interconnected via a tube interconnection means (42; 46; 50),

a discharge path being formed through the tubes (41, 43; 45, 47; 49, 51) between a first (20a) and a second electrode (20b), each electrode (20a, 20b) being provided at a second end portion (41b; 51b) of one of the tubes (41; 51), the second end portions (41b; 51b) facing away from the first end portions (41a; 51a), the electrodes (20a; 20b) being provided at extreme ends of the fluorescent lamp,

further second end portions (43b; 45b; 47b; 49b) of the tubes (43; 45; 47; 49) being provided with a sealed end,

bridge parts (34; 38) for mutually connecting tubes (43, 45; 47, 49) of adjacent dual-shaped lamp parts (35, 36; 36, 37) being provided in the proximity of the second end portions (43b, 45b; 47b, 49b) of the tubes (43, 45; 47, 49),

at least one of the further second end portions (45b) being provided with the source of mercury (7) and the releasing means (8).

13. (original) A compact fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that a heating means (25) is provided at the further second end portion (45b).

14. (original) A compact fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the tube interconnection means (42; 46; 50) is either a bridge portion or a bent portion.

15. (original) A compact fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that a lamp housing is attached to the discharge vessel of the low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp, which lamp housing is provided with a lamp cap.